

The Health of African Americans Living in Seattle

A Special Report to the Seattle City Council April 1999

PART II: COMMUNITY/POPULATION LEVEL INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

Programs Targeting African Americans

CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

- **Hypertension Project at the Center for MultiCultural Health:**
 - 50% of clients are African American – Central & South Seattle
 - Outreach & screening – a continuation of SHIP, which includes cholesterol & blood pressure screening and intensive follow up, thus becoming a multi-risk-factor-screening program. Services are not limited to African Americans but are targeted to that population due to higher prevalence and related morbidity.
 - Approximate Budget: \$30,000
- **National Black Leadership Initiative on Cancer:**
 - As part of a national organization dedicated to reducing cancer among African Americans, the Health Department is engaged in activities such as "Circle of Friends," a breast and cervical health support and awareness program, and the "Kim L. Gordon First Annual Memorial Walk" which also includes hypertension and cholesterol screening activities.
 - Approximate Budget: \$1,345
- **African American Community Health Network:**
 - A bone marrow donor registry program.
 - Approximate Budget: \$20,000

CHRONIC DISEASE EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

- **African American Health Coalition:**
 - An extensive group of African American health professionals focused on raising awareness about negative health status and trends impacting African Americans. Partners include the Center for Multicultural Health and the Center for Health Training.
 - Approximate Budget: \$8,538
- **Health Fairs - Central Area Community Health Fair and Umoja Fest:**
 - Central Area Health Fair staff from the Health Department's Downtown and Columbia Health Center sites provide targeted health promotion/education materials and information to participants.
 - Approximate Budget: \$5,000

➤ **Ethnicity and Health Follow-Up Project:**

- The Ethnicity and Health Survey found that nearly one third of African Americans living in Central and Southeast Seattle believed that they have been discriminated against when seeking health services. This project will describe in greater depth the range of these experiences among African Americans living in King County and develop recommendations and best practice guidelines for addressing these issues.
- Approximate Budget: \$25,000

➤ **Other Activities:**

- A large number of African American youth are served through the Health Department's School Health programs such as the Youth Early Education Program (YEEP), and Middle College: the Health Department coordinates these services with the Central Area and Rainier Parks and Recreation Departments.
- Approximate Budget: \$ 2,241

➤ **Southeast Seattle Greater Church Council Partnership:**

- A variety of health promotion/education resources and seminars are provided to church members. Professional speakers present a variety of health awareness topics.
- Approximate Budget: \$ 2,241

SERVICES TARGETING YOUTH

➤ **STARS Project:**

- Health seminars to predominantly home-monitored youth referred by the Division of Youth Services Juvenile Detention. The Health Department provides public health nursing and health education services. Weekly sessions are provided throughout the academic year. 75% of the youth served are of African American descent.
- Approximate Budget: \$9,300

➤ **Asthma/Allergy Outreach:**

- Outreach and client education services to families in the Central Area of Seattle that are impacted by asthma.
- Approximate Budget: \$30,000

➤ **CAMP R.O.P.E. (Rights of Passage):**

- Support offered for communication skill building and self-esteem building for African American youth at the Central Area Motivation Program (CAMP).
- Approximate Budget: \$1,200

➤ **Teen Age Pregnancy Program (TAPP):**

- Marshall Alternative High School, where African-American clients are disproportionately represented, is a site for this program targeting pregnant and parenting teens. Primarily through the North Region's Public Health Nursing Program, the Health Department has been able to target this high-risk population with culturally appropriate services and programs.
- Approximate Budget: \$48,000

SERVICES TARGETING SENIORS

➤ African American Elders Project:

- Serving 125 African American Older Adults in Central & Southeast Seattle & Skyway, Public Health - Seattle & King County contributes a 1/2 time Public Health Nurse and ad hoc administrative & health educator time.
- Approximate Budget: \$70,000

HIV PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

➤ Women At Risk:

- Funded by the Health Department the Northwest AIDS Foundation provides peer-led prevention workshops targeting women of color
- Number of women served in 1998: 40
- Approximate Budget: \$ 29,849

➤ Adolescent Women At Risk:

- Funded by the Health Department, the People of Color Against AIDS Network (POCAAN) provides street outreach and support groups targeting adolescent females of color.
- Number of women served in 1998: 5,779
- Total Budget: \$54,869

➤ Adolescent Men At Risk:

- POCAAN provides street outreach and groups targeting adolescent males of color.
- Number of Men served in 1998: 3,741
- Total Budget: \$38,750

➤ Men Who Have Sex With Men (MSM):

- POCAAN provides support group services, presentations and outreach targeting African American men who have sex with men (MSM).
- Number of men served in 1998: 4,931
- Total Budget: \$162,762

➤ Out LOUD:

- POCAAN Provides community level intervention activities targeting African American men who have sex with men. Number of men served in 1998: 1,320
- Total Budget: \$32,696

➤ Injection Drug Users (IDU's) At Risk:

- Street Outreach Services (SOS) provides harm reduction groups, street outreach and drop-in center services targeting Injection Drug Users (IDU) of color.
- Number of individuals served in 1998: 39,594
- Total Budget: \$72,210

➤ Women At Risk:

- Street Outreach Services (SOS) provides support groups, street outreach and drop-in center services targeting women of color at risk for HIV.
- Number of women served in 1998: 20,071
- Total Budget: \$61,154

➤ **Adolescent Women At Risk:**

- YouthCare provides risk reduction groups in detention and treatment facilities for adolescent females of color.
- Number of women served in 1998: 1,314
- Total Budget: \$18,685

CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

➤ **King County Breast and Cervical Health Program (BCHP) - Women's Health:**

Concentrated in Seattle area but serving County-wide:

- Outreach Services: Provides community education about women's health, especially breast and cervical health, and outreach to recruit eligible women for BCHP clinical services. Services are contracted through 3 community-based organizations. Target audience – African American women age 40 and older with low incomes and no health insurance. 21% of the total outreach/education participants for January-June 1998 were African American.
- Clinical Services: Women's health exams, including mammograms and Pap tests.
- Service area is Seattle & King County – 12% of women screened between 7/94 and 9/97 are African American. No data yet available for 1998.
- Total Budget: \$151,350
- Approximate Budget serving African Americans: \$36,680

➤ **Parent, Child and Reproductive Health (PCRH) Unit:**

The core programs in Parent, Child and Reproductive Health form an important part of the safety net for families in poverty, and, because of the disproportionate number of African Americans in poverty, are a significant resource for African Americans. As a point of reference, African Americans comprise 12% of the population of the City.

- Pediatric clinical services: Of the 7,006 children served in Seattle in 1998, 29% were African American. Total Budget in 1999: \$3,359,036. Approximate Budget serving African Americans: \$974,12
- Maternity clinical services: Of the 643 women served in Seattle in 1998, 24% were African American. Total Budget in 1999: \$601,393. Approximate Budget serving African Americans: \$144,334.
- Family Planning clinical services: Of the 5,183 people served in Seattle in 1998, 16% were African American. Total Budget in 1999: \$1,651,776. Approximate Budget serving African Americans: \$264,284.
- WIC Supplemental Food Program: Of the 8,188 women and children served in Seattle in 1998, 19% were African American. Total Budget in 1999: \$1,304,517. Approximate Budget serving African Americans: \$247,858.
- Public health nurses, nutritionists, social workers and client services specialists provide education and counseling through office and home visits to pregnant and parenting families. Of the 6,139 people in Seattle served in 1998, 22% were African American. Total Budget in 1999: \$4,341,453. Approximate Budget serving African Americans: \$955,120.

Several programs are targeted to populations that include a higher proportion of African-Americans.

- MOMS Plus works with pregnant women who have problems with substance abuse. Of the 367 women served in 1998, 33% were African American. Total Budget in 1999: \$847,255. Approximate Budget serving African Americans: \$279,594.
- Northwest Family Center serves pregnant and parenting families with HIV. 32% of the 199 people served in 1998 were African American. Total Budget in 1999: \$1,328,649. Approximate Budget serving African Americans: \$425,168.

- The Infant Mortality Outreach projects find pregnant women and families of young children who are disconnected from the health care system to link them into needed services. They target minority communities because of the disparity in infant mortality rates in those communities. Of the 6,109 contacts in 1998, 44% (2,680) were to African Americans. Total Budget in 1999: \$781,949. Approximate Budget serving African Americans: \$344,058.
- The African American Infant Mortality Initiative is developing a collaborative network of 9 organizations who are providing information, education, outreach, casework, advocacy and provision of basic needs to high risk pregnant women, their male partners and families. The goal of the consortium is to address the disparity in infant mortality among African Americans, Native Americans and low income populations through a rich and culturally diverse set of strategies. Approximate Budget serving African Americans: \$100,000.

➤ **Immunizations Program:**

- Immunizations for clients at Health Department sites (serving all ages) and vaccine for children (0 - 18 years) who are non-Health Department clients. Approximate Budget serving African Americans (Immunizations): \$312,000. Approximate Budget serving African Americans (Vaccine): \$234,000.

➤ **Dental Services:**

- Clinic dental services at three Health Department sites: Columbia, North and Downtown. 23% of the 5,099 individuals served in 1998 were African American. Total Budget in 1999: \$2,496,915. Approximate Budget serving African Americans: \$574,290.

➤ **Jail Health Services:**

- No specific programs are targeted to African Americans although the population of the Jail is approximately 30% African American. Total number of individuals served in the King County Jail Health Program in 1998 was 24,538. Total 1999 Budget: \$13,262,238. Total Approximate Seattle Jail Budget: \$5,15,961. Approximate Budget serving African Americans: \$1,531,788.

➤ **Healthcare for the Homeless:**

- 24% of homeless people using shelters are African American. However, the programs target all homeless people. Total Budget: \$2,540,486. Approximate Budget serving African Americans: \$609,717.

COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

➤ **Seattle Partners for Healthy Communities:**

The Seattle Partners for Healthy Communities is an urban research center established in 1995 to promote the development and evaluation of effective strategies to improve health in low income urban areas. This project is funded by a five-year grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to the Health Department, Epidemiology, Planning and Evaluation (EPE) Unit. Goals of Seattle Partners include: 1) to increase understanding of how socioeconomic factors determine health status and identify opportunities for preventive interventions; 2) to evaluate the effectiveness of strategies which may improve urban health status and reduce economic and racial inequities in health; 3) to actively collaborate with community members in designing and evaluating these strategies; and 4) to encourage policy-makers to use effectiveness data in their decision-making processes.

Community Health Projects of Seattle Partners:

- The Community Research Room at Garfield Community Center opened in November 1995 with the assistance of a \$10,000 grant from Seattle Partners.
- Senior Immunization Project: Central Area Senior Center seeks to increase influenza and pneumococcal immunization rates among seniors in Central Seattle. The project was developed with active involvement of a project advisory group composed of senior center

members and staff, as well as technical advisors from the University of Washington, the Health Department, Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) and the Visiting Nurses Association. Community collaboration principles guided the development of the Senior Immunization Project. The intervention increased both influenza and pneumococcal vaccination rates to high levels.

- Reality Check Project: Monitoring the impact of welfare reform was initiated by a coalition of community based agencies (WA Welfare Reform Coalition (WWRC)) in an attempt to document the impact of welfare reform legislation on local communities. WWRC approached Seattle Partners for assistance with scientific and technical aspects of conducting a survey and data analysis. Seattle Partners provided funding to hire bilingual interviewers who were welfare recipients themselves to gather surveys and do further outreach to communities who might be under-represented in the survey. Approximately 1400 surveys were collected and analyzed and a report was completed in January 1999 for release at the opening of the Washington State legislative session.
- Evaluation of Community-based Programs: Seattle Partners assists community-based agencies with evaluation of programs that promote individual and community capacity to improve economic and social well being. EPE is currently evaluating three programs: (Evaluations to be completed by March, 1999.) 1) Asian Counseling and Referral Services (ACRS) Day Activities program; 2) ACRS Vocational Services program; and 3) Wilderness Inner-City Leadership Development program (WILD).
- Total Budget: \$220,000
- Approximate Budget serving African Americans: \$75,000

Seattle Healthy Homes:

Provides home environmental assessments to low-income households containing children with asthma to reduce exposure to asthma triggers.

- Total Budget: \$320,000
- Approximate Budget serving African Americans: \$115,000

Health and Ethnicity Survey:

An assessment of access to care and health-related behaviors.

- Total Budget: \$200,000
- Approximate Budget serving African Americans: \$30,000

Community Assessment:

The North Region's community assessment program will include efforts to identify and link African American populations to assessment, clinical, and public health services specifically relevant to the "Healthy Lungs Initiative". This initiative encompasses asthma management, indoor air quality, tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

- Approximate Budget: \$75,000
- Approximate Budget serving African Americans: \$37,500

Domestic Violence (DV):

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) awarded an NIJ Practitioner Partnership grant to the Health Department's EPE Unit to: (1) Assess access to and satisfaction with Domestic Violence (DV) services among ethnic (African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Latina, Vietnamese, Cambodian) and lesbian victims of DV in a culturally competent manner that assures the quality and accuracy of the findings; (2) Utilize a Participatory Action Research (PAR) approach to partnering with DV service providers, advocates and victims of DV to ensure that research findings inform service delivery and that partners benefit from participating in the research project; (3) Use the research findings to inform a coordinated, culturally relevant system of response for women experiencing DV in Seattle.

The City of Seattle Department of Human Services was awarded funds through the NIJ Policies to Encourage Arrests grant and transferred funds to the Health Department's, EPE Unit to: (1) Expand the number of focus groups, adding 3-4 additional ethnic groups using the same

approach as above, (2) Conduct a telephone survey for King County to collect data about the prevalence of domestic violence. The findings of these studies will be used by the City Domestic Violence Council.

- Total Budget: \$180,000
- Approximate Budget serving African Americans: \$40,000

Cultural Diversity Training & Capacity Building:

The North Region has placed an initial priority on training staff to be more effective in cross cultural communication and competency. Further, our customer service training program highlights issues related to diversity. This inside, out approach is seen to be the most feasible and the most strategically effective to begin meeting our long-range goals to better serve diverse populations. Results of these efforts can immediately be seen in our ability to serve clients with greater sensitivity and cultural appropriateness.

- Approximate Budget: \$50,000

SERVICES TARGETING YOUTH

➤ The Immunization/Women Infants and Children (WIC) Linkage Project:

Provides assessment of immunization status for children in WIC, with immunization provided immediately at the site or through referral to the family's medical home. This program serves 2,200 children 0-2 years of age yearly, of whom approximately 28% are African American. The program takes place at two health department sites, Columbia and Federal Way, and at two private clinics, Odessa Brown Children's Clinic and Medallia HealthCare Family Residency Clinic.

- Total Budget: \$90,000
- Approximate Budget serving African Americans: \$25,200

➤ Field Dental:

Approximately 25% of the children in Seattle schools participating in the field dental sealant program are African Americans.

- Total Budget: \$327,841
- Approximate Budget serving African Americans: \$62,290

➤ Family Health Services:

Primary care in-clinic services for families. Please note these visits are different than the family planning, maternal health, and pediatric visits noted elsewhere. Of the 13,659 visits delivered at the North Region, Downtown and Columbia sites in 1998, approximately 1,543 of the individuals served were African American.

- Total Budget: \$ 1,673,844
- Approximate Budget serving African Americans: \$188,977

➤ School-Aged Health Programs:

Approximately 21% of the students enrolled in the Teen Health Center, Wellness Centers, and School-Based Clinics in Seattle's Public Schools are African American.

- Total Budget in 1999: \$2,998,506
- Approximate Budget serving African Americans: \$629,686

HIV PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

➤ Young Men's Survey-Men Who Have Sex With Men (MSM):

- 10% African American participation
- Enrolled 528 Men who have sex with men
- Total budget: \$336,558
- Approximate Budget serving African Americans: \$21,672

➤ Kiwi Study:

- Approximately 22% African American
- Study of HIV incidence and prevalence and related risk behaviors among injection drug users (IDUs) booked in the King County Correctional Facility
- Total Budget: \$110,789
- Approximate budget serving African Americans: \$16,038

➤ One-on-One:

- Provides follow-up, baseline clinical assessment, and referral for newly identified HIV-infected individuals.
- 11% of clients served are African American
- Total Budget: \$22,000
- Approximate Budget serving African Americans: \$2,420

➤ HIV Counseling and Testing for High Risk Populations:

- Provides the following services for clients who are at increased risk for HIV infection: HIV pre-test and post-test counseling, HIV testing, testing for other blood borne pathogens, tuberculosis skin tests, testing for other sexually transmitted diseases, and referral to relevant community resources. For clients with HIV infection, services include initial medical assessment and referral, as well as assistance with notifying exposed partners. 6.4% of clients served are African American
- Total Budget: \$428,000
- Approximate Budget serving African Americans: \$27,000

➤ Raven Study:

- National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) funded – County-wide
- Provides counseling and testing for HIV, HBV and HCV, HTLV I and II, HSV 2, and syphilis. Also provides referral to social and health services. Later in the study, participants were referred for free HBV vaccination. Services to about 250 African American IDUs yearly.
- Total Budget: \$503,927
- Approximate Budget serving African Americans: \$90,817

➤ Methadone Voucher Program:

- Provides methadone treatment vouchers to clients of the community based organization People of Color Against AIDS (POCAAN), needle exchange sites, Stonewall Recovery Services, and Street Outreach Services (SOS) for distribution to clients who are injection drug users.
- 59% of clients served are African American
- Total Budget: \$268,000
- Approximate Budget serving African Americans: \$158,000

➤ Needle Exchange Program:

- Provides one-for-one exchange of used syringes for clean ones at six locations, seven days per week; over 1.2 million syringes were exchanged in 1998
- Approximately 25% of clients served are African American
- Total Budget: \$783,000
- Approximate Budget serving African Americans: \$198,000

➤ **Lifesavers Bleach and Condom Distribution:**

- Distributes to multiple venues kits that contain bleach, condoms, clean cookers and cottons, and information on numerous strategies to reduce the risk of acquiring or transmitting HIV or other blood borne pathogens.
- Approximately 25% of clients served are African American
- Total Budget: \$20,000
- Approximate Budget serving African Americans: \$5,000

➤ **Sexual Health Information Program:**

- Services delivered by People of Color Against AIDS Network (POCAAN). Provides educational sessions and support groups for women in the sex industry.
- Number of women served in 1998: 96
- Total Budget: \$30,000
- Approximate Budget serving African Americans: \$18,125